

Remarks

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Restriction Requirement dated October 11, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on November 11, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-58 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 56 and 57 are amended to clarify the invention. Support for the amendments may be found at least in claims 1 and 5. These amendments are not presented to distinguish a reference, thus, the claims as amended are entitled to a full range of equivalents if not previously amended to distinguish a reference.

The Examiner has restricted the claims into two groups:

- I. Claims 1-55 drawn to a ball assembly
- II. Claims 56-58 drawn to electrochemical polishing system

The Examiner has stated that Groups I and II are related as combination and subcombination. The Examiner has further stated that the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination because it does not recite the particulars of the ball assembly. Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-55, and respectfully traverse the restriction requirement.

Claim 56 as amended has all of the limitations of the ball assembly of claim 1. Claims 57 and 58 depend from claim 56 and thus also have all of the limitations of the ball assembly of claim 1. Therefore, the combination (claims 56-58) requires the subcombination (claim 1). Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the restriction requirement.

Having addressed all issues set out in the Restriction Requirement, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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